NATIVE ZINC.

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IN September, 1903, Mr. Frank A. Thackrey, superintendent of the United States Indian Training School. Shawnee, Okla., sent the writer a specimen of metal supposed to be native, and found in the banks of a new channel of a river. Upon examination, the metal proved to be zinc, and a request was made for further information concerning its occurrence and quantity. In reply, the following letter was received from Mr. Thackrey:

"Answering your letter of the 17th inst., I beg to advise that I have been unable as yet to personally investigate the allotment where the specimen of zinc, sent you some time ago, was found, as the allotment on which it was found is located a considerable distance from this office, and I have been unusually busy. I have ascertained, however, that it was found in a new channel made by the North Canadian river last spring during the high water, wherein it cut across a low, sandy bottom, and that several other smaller pieces were found along the same banks of this new channel in the river. I also learned that some years ago the allottee was digging a ditch to drain a pond into the same river on the same land, and in the bottom of this ditch, four or five feet underground, he found several similar specimens. However, he thinks the one sent you was the best he found, the others being smaller but of the same nature. I shall endeavor to look further into the matter as soon as possible, and shall be pleased to report the facts to you as soon as I can do so."

The specimen of metal sent is a flat, irregular mass, encrusted to a certain extent with earthy material, the whole weighing 43 grams. It has the coarse, crystalline texture common to zinc.

Native zinc is given by Dana as being reported from near Melbourne. Australia, from northeast Alabama, and from Shasta county, California. The comment is added, "Its existence in nature, however, needs confirmation." It is hoped that additional evidence may be secured in respect to the present instance, though there seems to be no reason to doubt the genuineness of the specimen.